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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kerrville Fire Department to Host Special Demonstration Ahead of Fire Prevention Week

Kerrville, Texas (September 23, 2016) – Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) most American homes have at least one, but do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like many Americans, you may not be so sure.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms far past the expiration date, which puts you at risk.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for the Kerrville Fire Department and the NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in the event of a house fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't

working properly,” said Kerrville Fire Chief Dannie Smith. “That’s why we’re making a concerted effort to educate residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and raise awareness that these alarms have a life limit.”

That’s also why the focus of this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign is “Don’t Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.” Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016. During that week, fire departments all over the nation will work to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing the age of smoke alarms and replacing all alarms after 10 years.

The Kerrville Fire Department will host a special demonstration in the parking lot of Home Depot on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 9:00am-12:00pm in support of Fire Prevention Week and this year’s campaign. From 9:00am – 11:00am all residents and their children are invited to mingle with fire fighters to learn more about fire safety and get an up close look at the City of Kerrville fire engines.

Then at 11:00am you won’t want to miss the BIG event. Home Depot has donated the supplies for John Anthony Homes & Development to construct a 10 foot by 10 foot structure, which the Kerrville Fire Department plans to fill with furniture and ignite. This demonstration will show just how quickly a structure can be consumed by fire and how important smoke alarms are.

Throughout Fire Prevention Week, the Kerrville Fire Department will visit 4th and 5th grade classrooms at Kerrville Elementary Schools to provide even more information about smoke alarms and fire safety. The Kerrville Fire Department is also working with Home Depot to make a smoke alarm available to any resident in need.

“Our goal is to get a working smoke detector inside every structure in the City of Kerrville,” Chief Smith said.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and what its expiration date is, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date, *not* from the date of purchase.

The Kerrville Fire Department recommends smoke alarms be tested monthly, and batteries be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they’re running low.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Don’t Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,” visit www.firepreventionweek.org.

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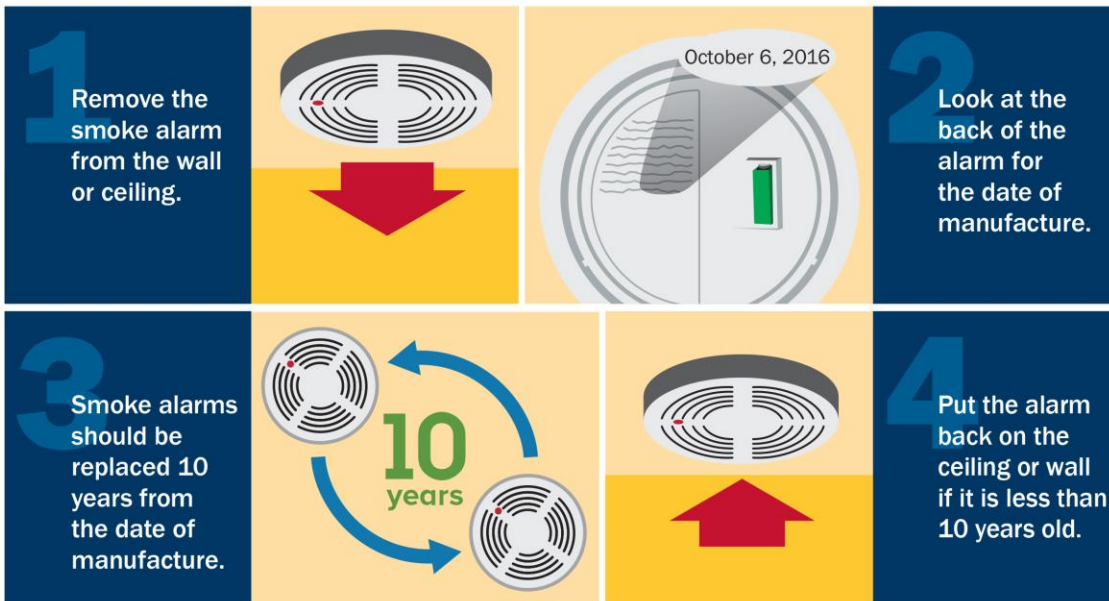
Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA



NFPA is the official
sponsor of Fire Prevention
Week since 1922